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peculiar interest as material for a study of the breakdown of a highly complex and coherent socio-political system, under the stress of modern conditions. It must be kept in mind, however, that whereas MS. 2 represents an exceedingly old traditional record, but weakly rationalized by the intrusion of later interpretations and additions; MS. 1, as an integral code, cannot justly be regarded as a genuine native product. It is, without doubt, based on a wide acquaintance, on the part of the compiler, with the beliefs, attitudes, and practices of the confederated Iroquois, but this native material has been welded into a highly formal and rationalized document, the product of a sophisticated mind, and, as such, conspicuously un-Indian in character. In a sense, then, "The Constitution of the Five Nations" is a figment. It does not exist. For, apart from the Legend of Deganawida, the Indians of the Iroquois League had no constitution, either written or unwritten.

A. A. GOLDENWEISER

#### AFRICA

*Ethnographisch Album van het Stroomgebied van den Congo.* Onder medewerking van Dr. J. MARQUART begonnen en grootendeels afgewerkt door wijlen Dr. J. D. E. SCHMELTZ, voltooid door Dr. J. P. B. DE JOSSELIN DE JONG. (Publicatien van's Rijks Ethnographisch Museum, Serie II, No. 2, pls. 200-242.) 's-Gravenhage: Martinus Nijhoff, 1916.

The reader need not be deterred by the Dutch title from consulting this work, for the explanatory legends are accompanied by English translations. The present instalment concludes the album illustrating the Congo material in the State Museum of Ethnography, various vicissitudes of fortune having delayed its completion since the earlier issue of 1904. Among the objects figured are fetiches, masks, axes, knives, articles of clothing, goblets and other carvings. The text furnishes a faithful objective description; additional data illuminating, say, the specific use of masks or fetiches were evidently not furnished by the collectors.

Only one criticism can be advanced against the manner, otherwise exemplary, in which Dr. Josselin de Jong has acquitted himself of his task: except for a fair number of Kasai pieces and a few other specimens we are left quite in the dark as to the provenance of the objects pictured. This is doubtless due primarily to the collectors' negligence. Nevertheless the Congo is so immense an area that the professional ethnographer's purposes are no longer served by a statement, without further specification, that such and such a piece comes from the Congo. With the aid of the publications of the Tervueren Museum and other sources of information, such as Sir Harry Johnston's work, it ought to be possible

to assign a probable place of origin to at least some of the specimens in the present album; and such statements, made with proper reservations, would be of great aid to the reader. For example, the reviewer would venture to guess that the fetiches with exaggeratedly up-turned noses in plate 216, figs. 3 and 4, come from the Kwango region.

ROBERT H. LOWIE

#### MISCELLANEOUS

*Spencer Fullerton Baird.* A biography including selections from his correspondence with Audubon, Agassiz, Dana, and others. WILLIAM HEALEY DALL, A.M., D.Sc. Philadelphia: J. B. Lippincott Co., 1915. XVI, 462 p. 19 plates. 8°.

Spencer Fullerton Baird holds a commanding place in the history of American science. Endowed with remarkable natural gifts, he was fortunate also in the time in which he lived. Those were days of great beginnings in American science, when some of the most important of our scientific institutions were being established, or were passing through their formative period. And it fell to the lot of Baird to play an important rôle in these affairs. Thus, he became Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution at a time when hardly more than its foundations had been laid—by Joseph Henry, the first Secretary—and it was he who largely mapped out the course, especially in connection with the National Museum, which has been followed to this day. He organized the United States Fish Commission, and served as its first Commissioner. And, what is of particular interest to readers of this journal, it was he who established the Bureau of North American Ethnology, and appointed Major Powell as its first head.

At the time of Baird's death his correspondence and other papers passed into the hands of his daughter and only child, who to the end of her life cherished the hope of writing a biography of her father. She actually did prepare some manuscript, chiefly reminiscences; but she was prevented from completing the work, first by the illness of her mother and then by her own poor health. On her death all the Baird papers, including Miss Baird's manuscript and notes, were entrusted to Dr. W. H. Dall of the U. S. National Museum to prepare a biography. Dr. Dall had been associated with Baird at the Museum for a quarter of a century, knew him intimately, and was thus splendidly qualified to prepare the work. And he has acquitted himself of the task most admirably. The life of Baird before us gives a splendid picture of Baird the man, and of his many-sided scientific interests and activities.

The volume is made up of letters, with just enough additional matter (for which some of Miss Baird's manuscript was used), to connect them